



Energy &  
Homeland Security

# Gen 3 Particle-Based CSP Technologies for Industrial Decarbonization

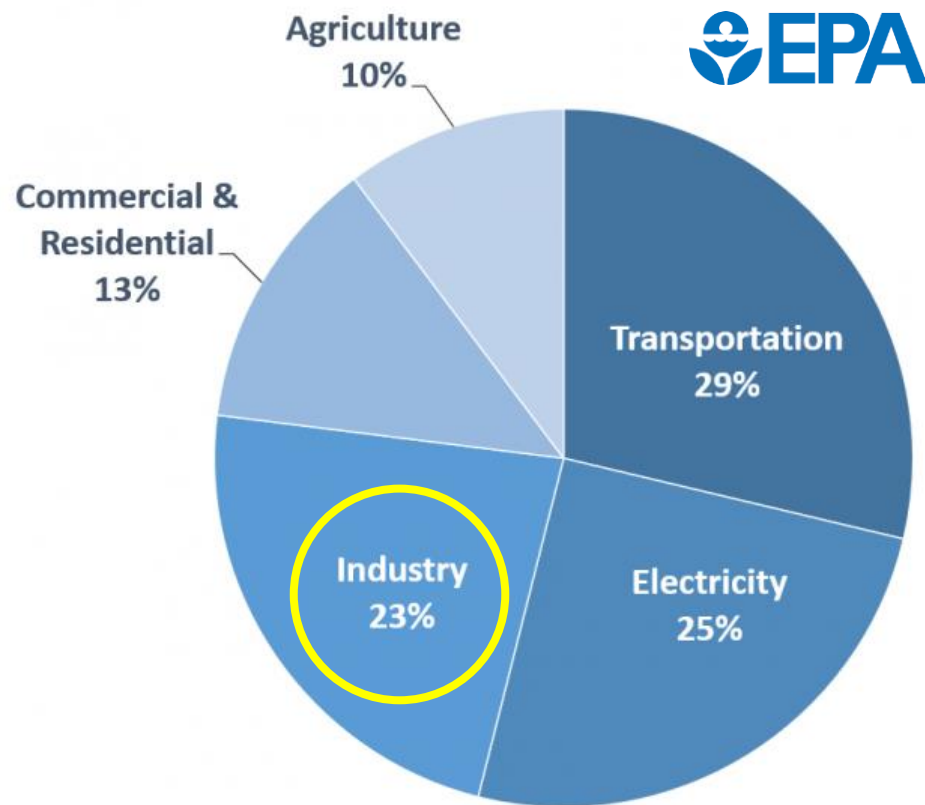
Clifford K. Ho, Ph.D.  
Sandia National Laboratories



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SAND2021-11187 PE

## Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2019



Total U.S. Emissions in 2019 = 6.6 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Nearly a **quarter** of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. are from **Industrial Processes and Manufacturing**



Cement  
and steel  
production



Food processing and drying



Chemicals



Electrification/automation



Petroleum refining



**Concentrating solar thermal technologies can provide clean heating and electrification for industrial processes with long-duration storage**



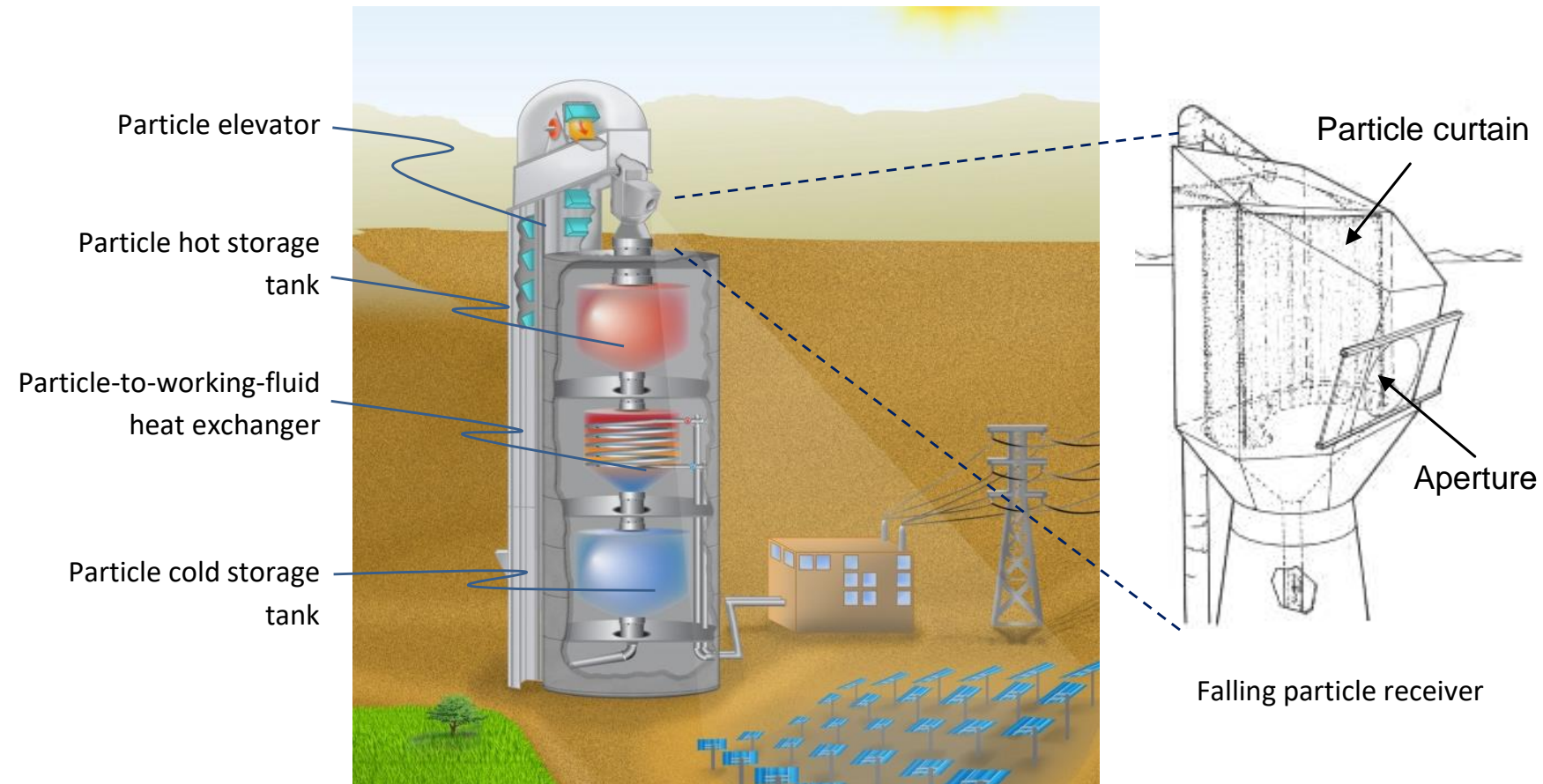
**Increase range of temperatures for advanced power cycles and industrial process heating**



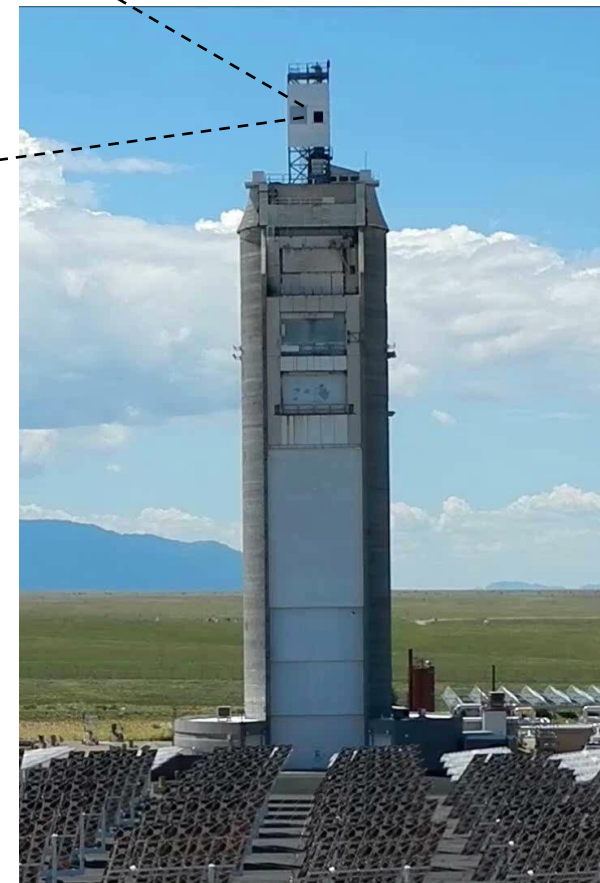
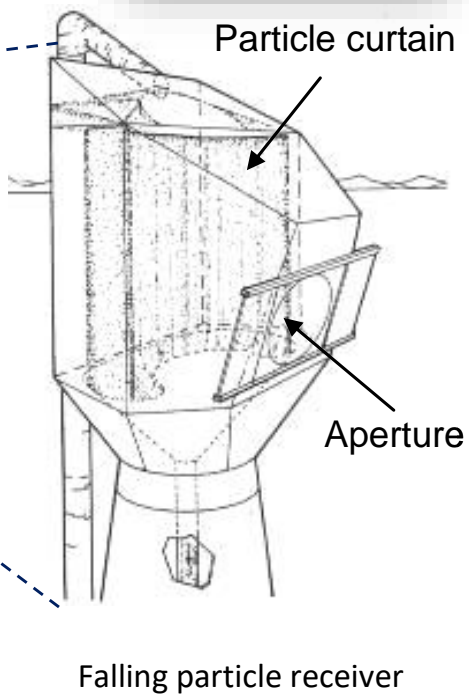
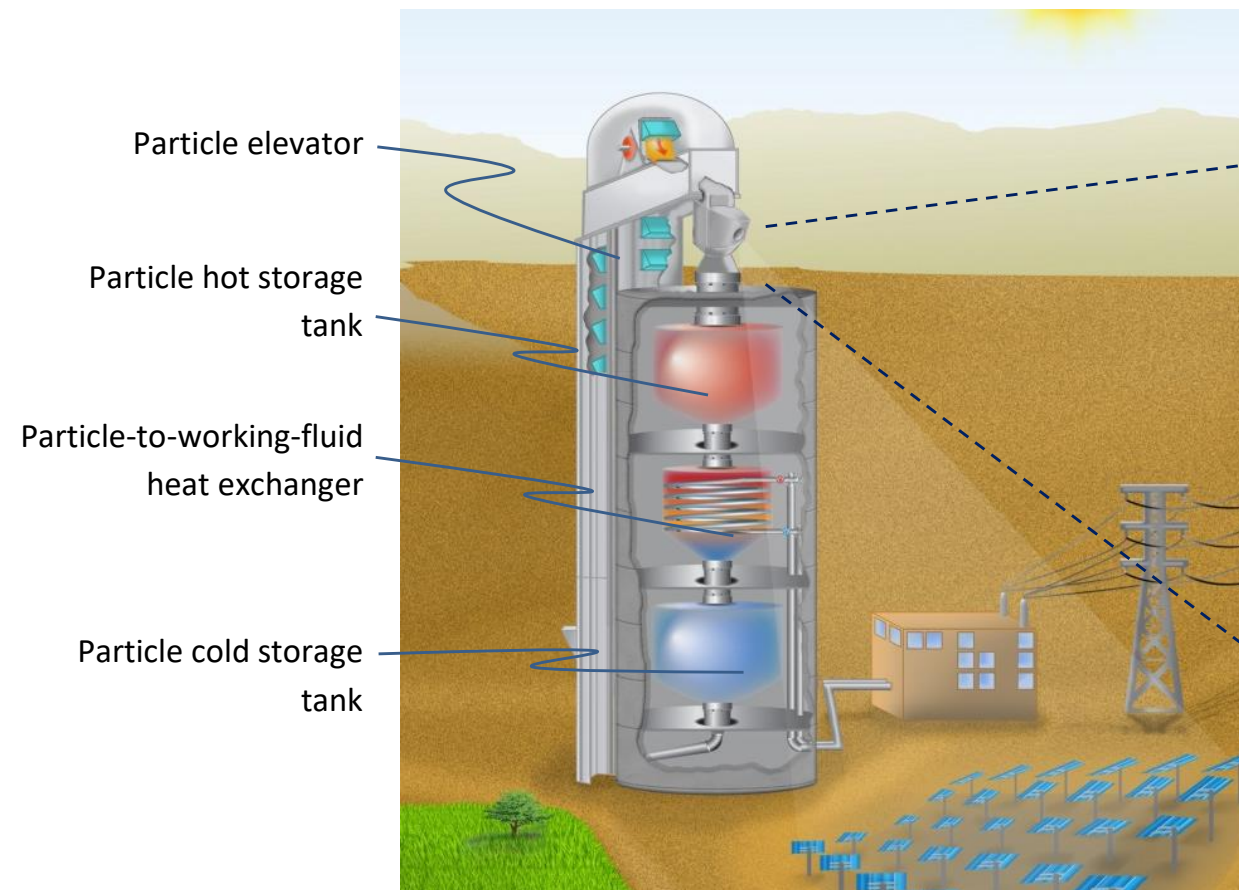
**Reduce system costs**



## High-Temperature Particle-Based CSP

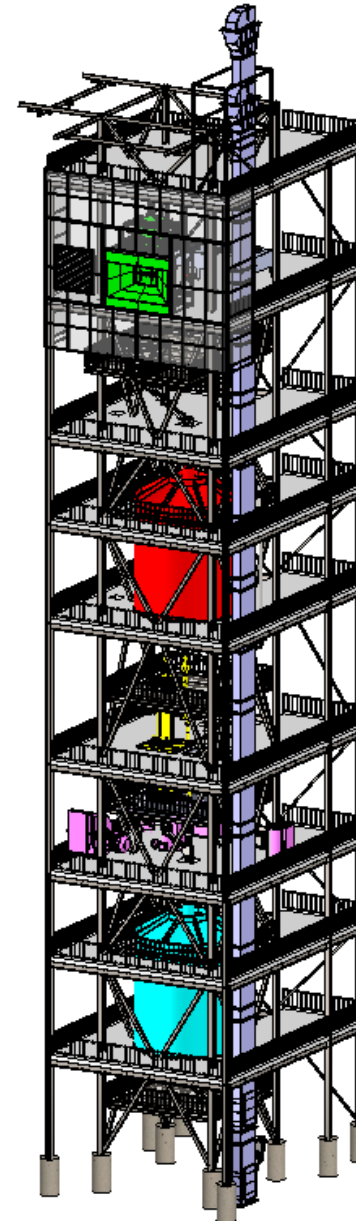


## High-Temperature Particle-Based CSP



National Solar Thermal Test Facility  
Sandia National Laboratories

Particle-based CSP enables higher temperatures for next-generation power cycles and high-T process heat

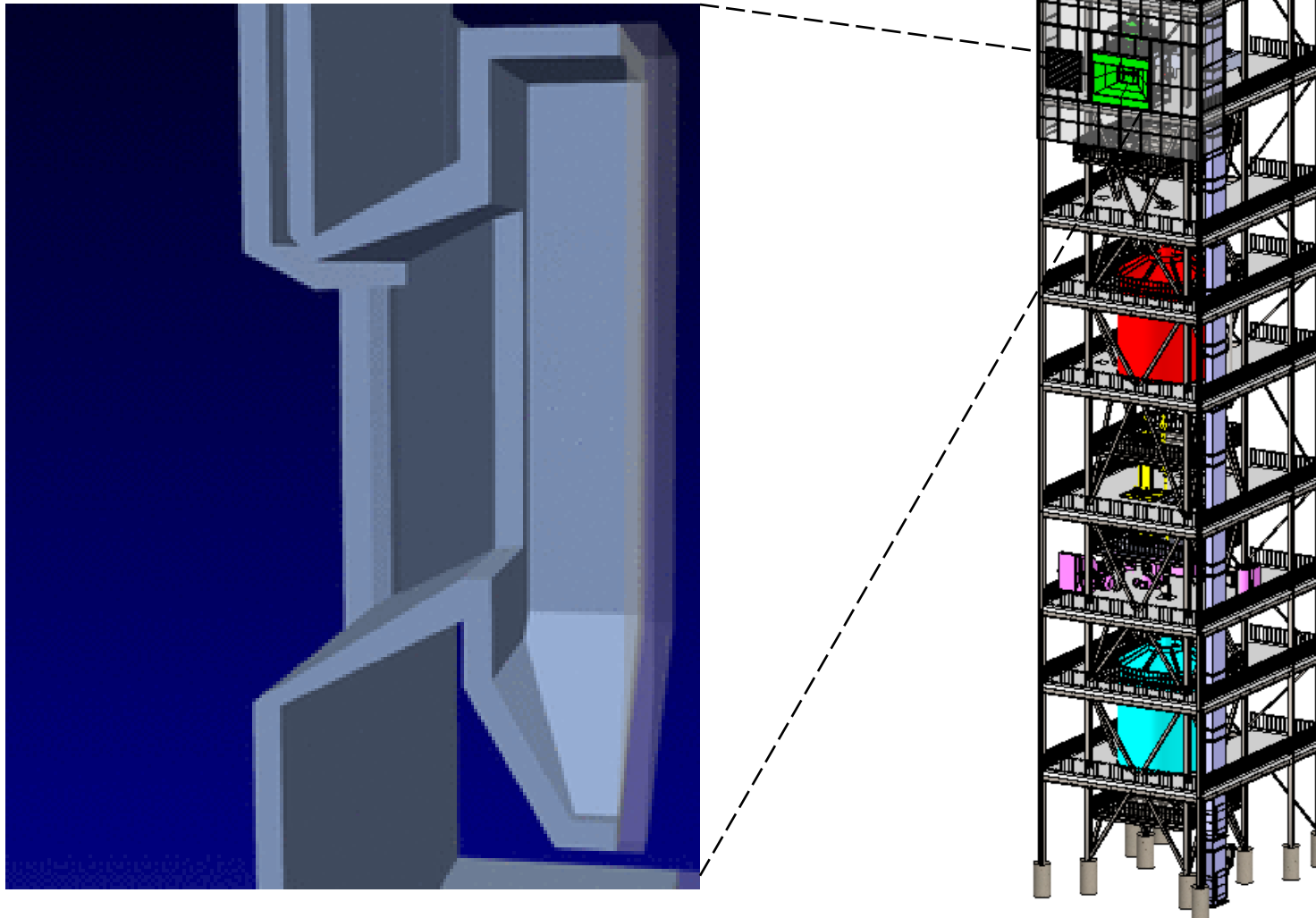


### Gen 3 Particle Pilot Plant

- $\sim 1 - 2 \text{ MW}_t$  receiver
- $6 \text{ MWh}_t$  storage
- $1 \text{ MW}_t$  particle-to- $\text{sCO}_2$  heat exchanger
- $\sim 300 - 400$  micron ceramic particles (CARBO HSP 40/70)

K. Albrecht, SNL

## Next-Generation High-Temperature Falling Particle Receiver



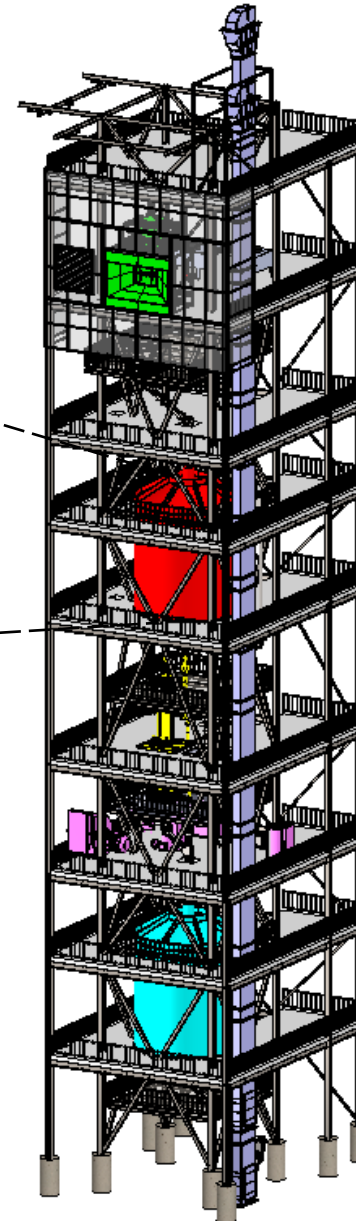
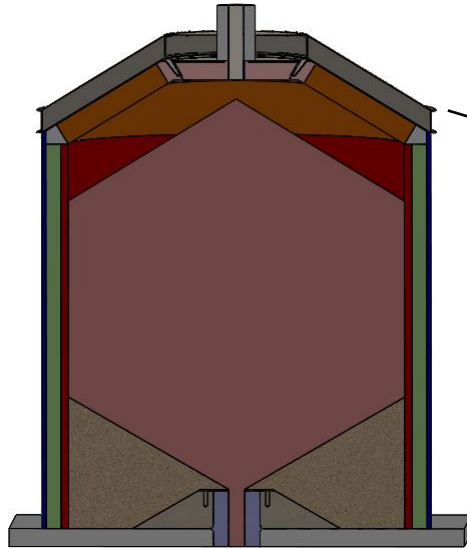
### Key Remaining Gaps

- Mitigation of adverse wind impacts (particle/heat loss)
- Integrated on-sun testing
- Long-term operation and controls
- Commercial scale-up

K. Albrecht, SNL

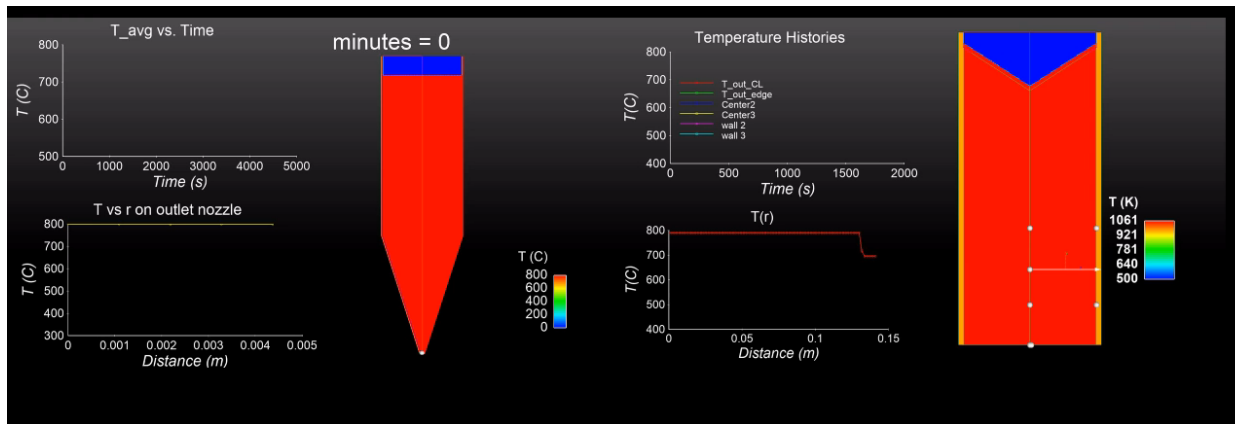


## High-Temperature Particle Storage Bin (Allied Mineral Products, Matrix PDM, Sandia)



### Key Remaining Gaps

- Demonstration of large-scale, long-duration particle thermal storage
- Low-cost refractory insulation and installation
- Commercial scale-up

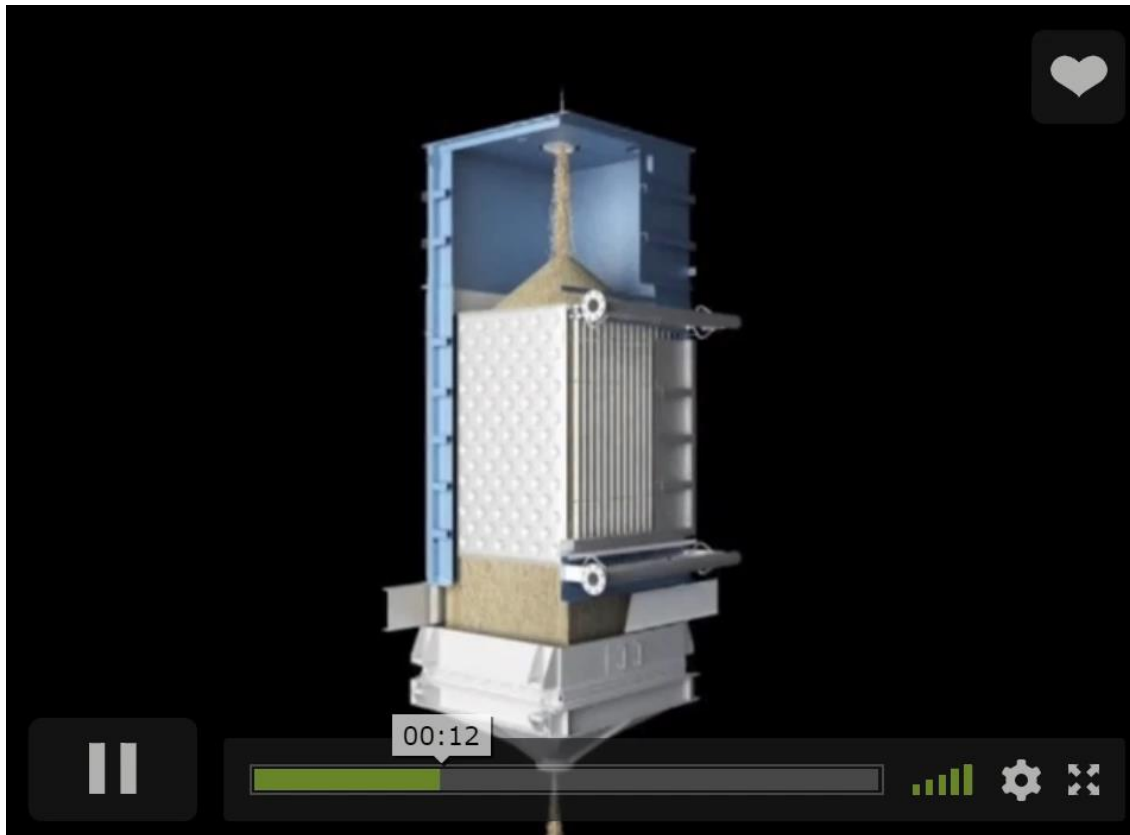


K. Albrecht, SNL

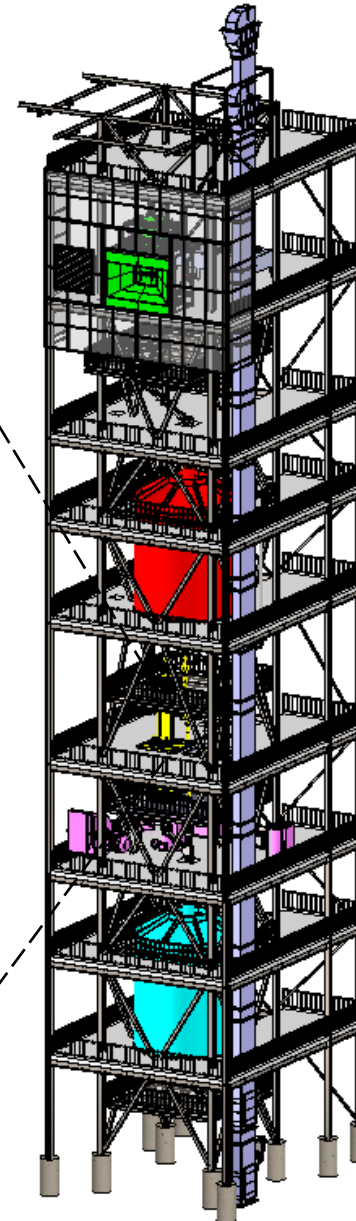




## High-Temperature Particle-to-sCO<sub>2</sub> Heat Exchanger (VPE, Solex, Sandia)



<https://www.solexthermal.com/our-technology/cooling/>

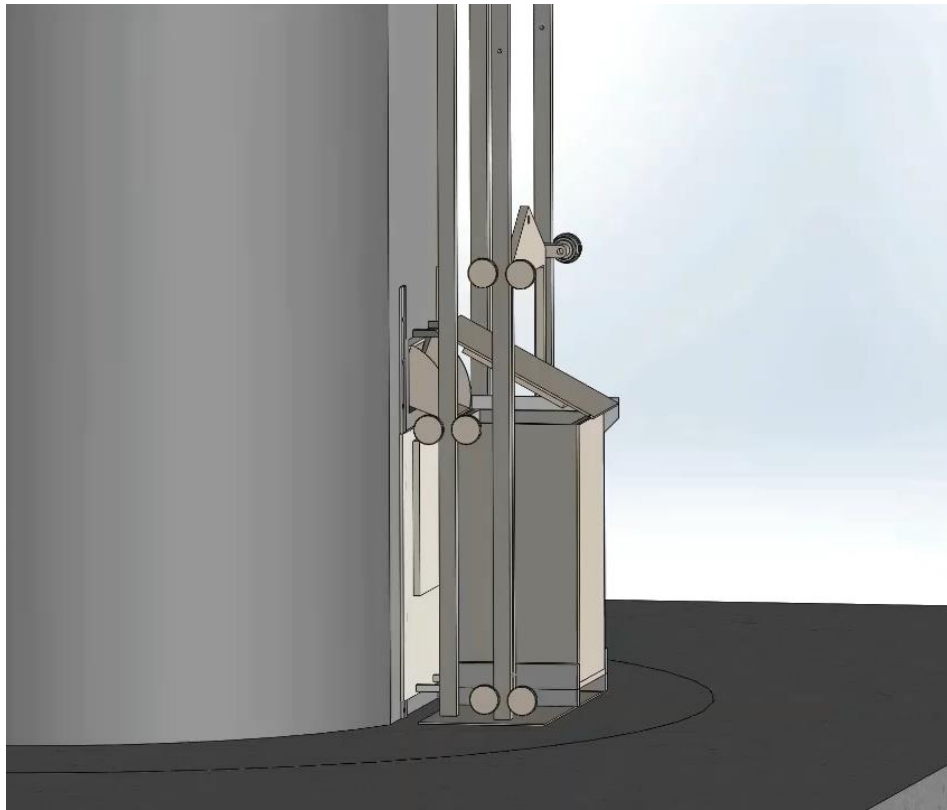


### Key Remaining Gaps

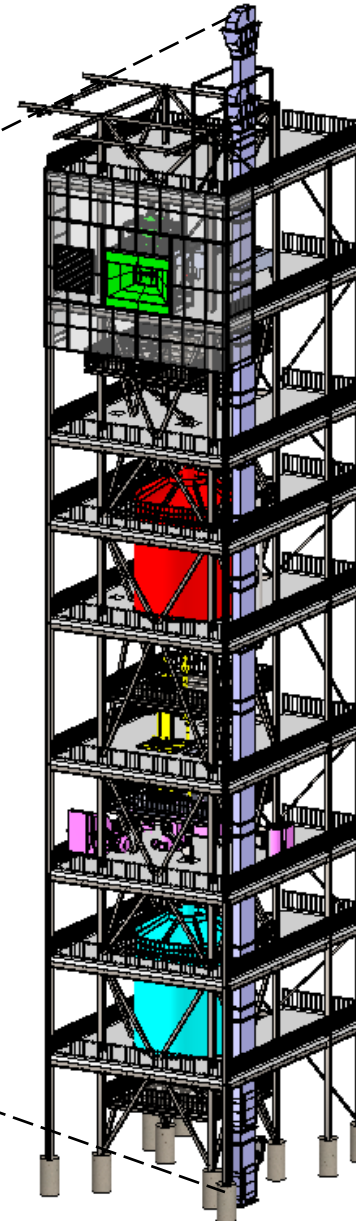
- Lower cost materials and manufacturing methods
- Fatigue, creep, and erosion analyses
- Increased particle-side heat-transfer coefficients (alternative heat-exchanger designs)
- Commercial scale-up

K. Albrecht, SNL

## High-Temperature Particle Lift and Conveyance (SNL, Georgia Tech, MHE, KSU, Magaldi)



K. Repole and S. Jeter, Georgia Tech



K. Albrecht, SNL

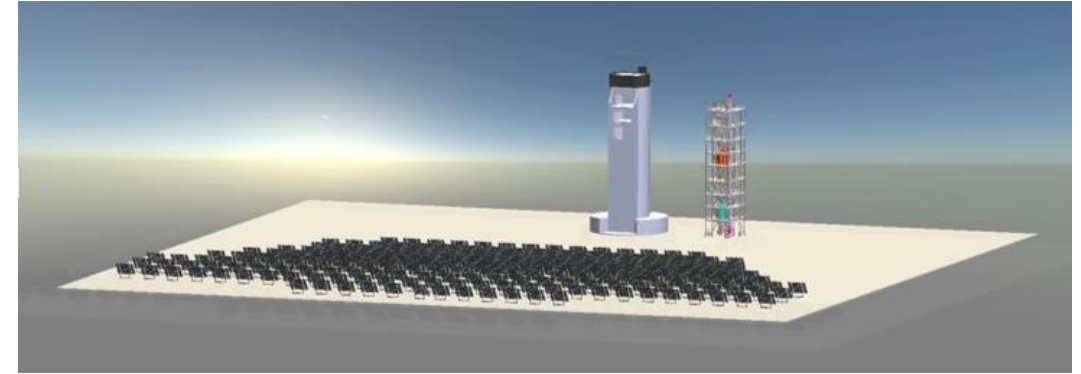
### Key Remaining Gaps

- Demonstration of high-temperature, large-capacity particle lift and conveyance with low heat and particle loss
- Heat loss and reliability of chain-driven bucket elevators
- Loading and unloading processes for skips
- Commercial scale-up

- DOE Gen 3 CSP
  - Develop next generation particle-based CSP
  - ~16 domestic & international partners (FY19–FY23)
- DOE TESTBED/Heliogen
  - Solarized supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> power cycle with **thermal storage; solar fuels; process heating**
- International Interest
  - **Process Heat** (HiFlex – **Barilla**, drying of pasta using heated particles, Foggia, Southern Italy)

Significant DOE and international interest in particle-based CSP and industrial process heat

## Sandia Gen 3 Particle Pilot Plant



Breakthrough  
Energy  
Ventures



DLR and Sandia received a \$1.5M DOE Technology Commercialization Fund award





- Concentrating solar thermal technologies can provide **both heat and electricity** for industrial processes
- **Particle-based CSP** can achieve **higher temperatures** for more efficient electricity generation and high-temperature industrial processes
- **Key gaps**
  - Reduction of particle and heat losses from receiver
  - Improved materials and manufacturing methods to reduce costs and increase performance of heat exchanger and storage bins
  - Large-scale demonstrations of integrated components and commercial-scale up



**SOLAR ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE**  
U.S. Department Of Energy

This work is funded in part or whole by the U.S.  
Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office  
under Award Number 34211

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# Questions?

